

## BLIND HEIRESS HAS A MISSION.

What Alice A. Holmes Will  
Do with Her For-  
tune.

SHE IS SEVENTY-SEVEN.

Has Inherited Over \$300,000  
from a Brother in  
California.

PROFITS BY HER EXPERIENCE.

Her First Thought is to Publish and  
Circulate Freely Books for Those  
Who Read with Their  
Fingers.

Miss Alice A. Holmes, in her seventy-seventh year, who has been blind since her birth, was yesterday reading with her finger pressed on the raised white letters of the full sheets, Prescott's "History of the Conquest of Peru," and exclaiming at short intervals, "How beautiful!" when a pretty girl entered the room, and without ceremony exclaimed, "You are an heiress!"

"So it seems!" Miss Holmes replied softly. Then turning to another visitor she said:

"My dear brother, William J. Holmes, of Downsville, Sierra County, Cal., has left his fortune to me. It grieves me that I survive him, but since it is a will, do you know what I shall do? I will pay for the publication of some of the works in letters for the blind, and I will extend the free circulation of books among those who cannot read with their eyes."

"There are not," she continued, "enough books for the blind. I should have to pay for a book like this 'Conquest of Peru' to read it, but I get it for nothing in our city library here in Jersey City. Thanks to Dr. Gordon's kindness."

"Do you know what I had to do for my books? I had to send a friend from here across two rivers to Brooklyn, and I could not always afford the fare. Now Jersey City has free circulating books for the blind, but they are few necessarily."

Miss Holmes's hair is of the same whiteness as the silver which ornaments her two small tortoiseshell combs, her features are delicate, her mouth is finely formed and her smile enchanting. She is a poet and has been a teacher of music. She has published "Poems," "Acanthian Leaves," "Stray Leaves" and "Lost Vision," all sincere expressions of her ideas and sentiments, and she lives at No. 242 Grove street, Jersey City, surrounded by devoted friends.

"She was born at Winifred, in the County of Norfolk, England, in 1821, and lost her eyesight in 1830 from smallpox. She was raised in the house in which she now lives."

"I have had a very active life," she said yesterday, "but I shall be more active now than ever before. I suppose. The last poem I wrote ends with the following lines: But cheerful meet the ill and cure. That aged pilgrim oft must bear."

"I did not think when I wrote them that they would reach Downsville on the day of my brother's death and that his friends would return to me, with the news of it, my own words of consolation."

Miss Holmes said she did not know the amount of the money she had inherited, but it is generally believed to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000. "Whatever it may be," said she, "I will publish books for the blind. The State appropriates to such publications the interest of a sum of \$75,000, invaluable for text books; but old persons like me need books to read. I do not even know Rudyard Kipling, thank of it!"

**FRAU AGNES SORMA IS HERE.**

The Renowned German Actress Will Make Her American Debut in a Week.

Agnes Sorma, the famous German actress, arrived here yesterday on the steamship Havel and registered at the Union Square Hotel.

She is young and beautiful and will make her American debut as Nora in "The Doll's House" at the Irving Place Theatre a week from next Monday night. Ibsen said that her interpretation of this role surpassed Duse's.



**ALICE A. HOLMES.**

**Blind Heiress, Who Has Just Been Left Over \$300,000.**

This venerable lady has been totally blind since she was nine years old. She says she will devote her inheritance to providing books for the sightless.

House" at the Irving Place Theatre a week from next Monday night. Ibsen said that her interpretation of this role surpassed Duse's.

## WEALTHY CUBAN A BELLEVUE NURSE.

Pedro Piedra, Jr., Heir to  
Millions, Enters Hospital  
Training School.

HERE FOR EXPERIENCE

Horrors of Spanish Hospitals, in  
Which He Served, Impelled Him  
to Come Here to Study.

Pedro Piedra, Jr., son of Pedro Piedra, who owns 900 acres of sugar plantation in Matanzas Province, Cuba, and was prior to the breaking out of the war for independence accounted one of the wealthiest planters on the island, has become a student in the Bellevue Hospital Training School for Nurses, which he entered a few days ago, under the auspices of Professor William C. Lusk.

Young Piedra passed the entrance examination successfully, and was immediately assigned to duty in the hospital wards, where he was found yesterday ministering to his patients as tenderly as a woman. His aristocratic appearance and fine man-

ner Piedra, who is twenty-eight years old and an enthusiast, served for six months in the red cross detail of the Spanish army, both in Havana and in the interior. The horrible proofs there furnished of the inefficiency and utter recklessness of the Spanish hospital service suggested to him the idea that he could best serve the cause he loves so well by studying for a brief period the methods observed in the hospitals of this country.

He left Havana fifteen days ago, and on his arrival here went to Professor Lusk and confided to him his plans. The professor told him that he didn't think he'd enjoy the work in a hospital, but readily consented to become his sponsor. Through Professor Lusk's influence, and also because of his trying experience in Spanish hospitals, the usual period of probation exacted of novices was waived in Piedra's case. He has matriculated for the full training school course of two years, but he himself admits that he will scarcely remain here so long as that. As soon as he has learned all he wants to know he will return to Cuba and endeavor to apply his information for the good of his fellow countrymen. His mission is approved by his father, mother, brothers and sisters, who are at present living in Havana.

Young Piedra says the conditions existing in the Spanish hospitals are simply indescribable. Soldiers are frequently left for a day at a time on their wretched cots without food, and are then ordered to active service whether they are able to move about or not. He has seen them walk out of the hospitals only to fall dead in their tracks before they had proceeded a stone's throw from the buildings.

Senor Piedra is an American citizen, as is his father. The latter was once imprisoned by General Weyler's orders, but was released through General Fitzhugh Lee's offices. "After that," said young Piedra, "I was advised by General Lee to leave the island. It was well that I did so, for they were after me. The rumor was started that I was a Cuban spy, and fifteen days ago I left Havana and set sail for the land of the free."

## SHE WONT PAY OR MOVE.

Landlord Seagrist Has Run Against an Ob-  
stacle in His Efforts to Oust One of  
His Flat Dwellers.

Since sitting on the front stoop and combing her hair is said to be conduct unbecoming a flat dweller, F. K. Seagrist, owner of the house at No. 309 West Forty-second street, had Mrs. Barbara Harrigan arrested. Then they talked about each other and at each other in Yorkville Police Court yesterday.

Seagrist solemnly assured the Magistrate that Mrs. Harrigan was the worst tenant he had ever had, and she said the landlord was simply offended at her because the Board of Health made him spend \$10 on her account.

"She's only been two months in the house," Seagrist said, "and has made more trouble than all the tenants combined. She gets drunk, uses loud and profane talk and sits on the front stoop to comb her hair. And she won't pay her rent and she refuses to move out."

The housekeeper of the flats then volunteered the statement that she had a habit of ringing the other tenants' bells at all hours of the night.

Magistrate Diehl discharged Mrs. Harrigan on a promise to behave herself and not talk to the other tenants.

## William Weeps with a Widow.

Berlin, April 9.—Emperor William has telegraphed to the widow of Dr. Von Stephan, the Imperial Postmaster, who died yesterday, saying: "It should be consolation to you that your Emperor and King, the fatherland and the world, mourn with you. History will preserve your husband's memory, and I shall ever remember his eminent services and unswerving loyalty under four kings and three emperors."

## COY WORKERS FOR THE FAIR.

Two Hundred Patriotic Irish  
Women Canvassing  
for the Fund.

WILL SCOUR THE CITY.

Besides, They Are as Busy as  
Bees with Plans for the  
Big Enterprise.

About 200 charming women have taken the field with subscription books in aid of the Irish Fair that is to open on May 11 at the Grand Central Palace, Forty-third street and Lexington avenue. The city has been divided into districts by these fair canvassers, and no one who is at all likely to help the fair fund along will be slighted. Contributions of cash will be sought in the first place, but anything from a "pin to an anchor," as one of the circulars issued puts it, will be gratefully accepted.

For the time being some of the subscriptions received will be made public. The full list will be printed a week or two before the opening of the fair. There is such great eagerness among the members of the various county organizations to make a strong showing that the net result is certain to be very gratifying. In addition to the work of personal solicitation subscription blanks will soon be sent out by mail by the Executive Committee and a good harvest is looked for from that source. As matters stand now, Colonel Moran, chairman of the Executive Committee, figures that the fair is absolutely certain to net a quarter of a million, with the chances in favor of a much larger sum.

The individual county associations of women continue to send out addresses in the meantime. The ladies of Westmeath issued their address yesterday. The ladies of Cork will have their address ready for promulgation at a special meeting they are to hold to-morrow afternoon. The programme will also be carried out at this meeting. Miss Katie O'Sullivan, president of the association, has sent out a special appeal asking that all the men and women of Cork County be present. The ladies will also meet to-morrow. They will appoint an executive committee, the members of which will be assisted by a like committee from the Sligo men's association. They will jointly issue an address to their county people, both here and at home. The Sligo ladies have also decided to have a calico hop on April 23 at Clarendon Hall, the proceeds of which will go to the cause of the fair fund.

The County Tyrone Ladies' Association will hold a meeting to-morrow evening to consult with the Tyrone Men's Association in regard to making final arrangements for having their county properly accounted for. The ladies from Londonderry are doing good work. Mrs. M. Ledwith and Mrs. James Kelly will furnish subscription books to any of their people who may wish to join in the work.

BY FREDERIC REMINGTON.  
Sketches from Life. Scenes of Spain's pitiless warfare in Cuba, vividly told by the pencil of America's most famous and truthful military artist. A folio of four full-page "wash" drawings of historic interest. To-morrow, in the Sunday Journal's Easter Number.

## WEDGED IN AN ICE PACK.

Dutch Liner Zaandam Was Pinched for  
Seven Hours—Icebergs A-plenty  
Near the Banks.

Another steamship—the Dutch liner Zaandam—arrived yesterday showing evidence of contact with the great ice pack south of the Newfoundland Banks. The Zaandam left Amsterdam on March 20, with 104 stowage passengers, and after buffeting her way through a series of gales, entered the ice field at 3 P. M. of April 3. In less than an hour the vessel was wedged in the vast pack, and there she lay, helpless for seven hours. At 11 o'clock that night Captain Derris detected a slight lead, and the engines were started cautiously. Then the vessel began a zig-zag course, which ended when she cleared the field at 5 A. M. of the 4th. The stowage passengers spent a sleepless night on deck.

## OUR ENEMY STOLE IN

An enemy stole into your house one day last week and touched you lightly in passing. You thought little of the matter at the time, for the enemy was only a vagrant current of air. But now you are beginning to learn what mischief the little intruder did, for your back is stiff and painful. Your head aches, and at times you feel dizzy. . . . What has happened? . . . Simply this: the cold has settled on your kidney. They are over-charged with blood and inflamed. Instead of passing its waste matter out of the body they are damming it up in the blood. Ever minute, yes, ever heart beat adds to the poison in you. Normal action of the kidneys will purify the blood. Nothing else will.



Is the friend in need. It will reduce the inflammation, so that the grip on the tissues of the blood-vessels is relaxed, and the uric acid is sent on its way out of the body.

Thus You Overcome Your Enemy

Large bottle, or new style, smaller one at your druggist.



**RADWAY'S READY RELIEF** has stood unrivalled before the public for 50 years as a Pain Remedy. It instantly relieves and quickly cures all Colds, Sore Throats, Influenza, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Headache, Toothache and all pains. Internally for Malaria and all Bowel Pains. All Druggists.

**Wanted—An Idea** Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WEDDERBURN & CO., Dept. E., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., for their \$1.00 price offer and new list of 1,000 inventions wanted.

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The Empress  
of Russia's  
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Love and Hate,"

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